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The Republican party are  
opposed to a convention for the  
purpose of amending the Constitution  
at the present time for the following  
reasons:-

1<sup>st</sup> It is unnecessary

It is admitted that only a part of  
the Constitution needs amendment -  
Such amendment may be made  
by submitting to the vote of the  
people the changes proposed at a  
cost of not more than fifty dollars  
while a convention would cost at  
least not less than fifty thousand  
dollars -

2<sup>nd</sup> It is dangerous

The power to restrict a convention  
is at least questionable and the  
extent of amendment to be secured  
cannot be exactly measured -  
before hand -

One third of the voters of the  
state may by the action of that  
convention, be debarred from  
even voting on the question of  
the adoption or rejection of the

Constitution proposed by it -

The Convention is at liberty to prescribe the qualification of those who shall vote upon its adoption - a residence of five years, a property or educational qualification may be required.

The man who votes for a convention may be throwing away by that act for himself and his children the right of the elective franchise forever.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Past experience warns us of danger -

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The first "amended" the free negro's right to vote out of existence, and was the first step towards his enslavement -

The second "amended" the people of the state into the rebellion and cost the state forty thousand lives and two hundred millions of dollars. - The third "amended" the colored man out of the jury box - the ballot-box and off the witness stand, and disqualified for holding office a large proportion of the white population. It also "amended" the state into a military district.

The fourth convention called to frame a constitution gave to every citizen the ballot, opened the jury box and the witness stand to all - gave to the debtor and his family the honest support to the honest & patriotic, brought the state back into the Union & gave us representation in the Councils of the Nation. It is the work of this convention which it is now proposed to amend,

I The settle has had three conventions to amend the constitution  
The lesson of those conventions is instruction

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4<sup>th</sup> The homestead endangered

If the homestead provision is not altered, the immediate change of the judiciary would result in the overthrow of the previous decisions, and every debtor's exemption would then go to his rapacious creditors.

There cannot be found a ~~prominent~~ prominent conservative lawyer who is not already committed upon this subject, and pledged to ~~overturn~~ overrule the decisions should opportunity ever offer.

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If the Constitution is to be amended it should be amended in the following particulars -

- 1 - The restrictions upon the death penalty should be removed and the act of going masked or disguised and committing acts of violence while so masked and disguised should be made a capital felony.
- 2 - The General Assembly should be required to make laws provide that the institution, organization or promulgation of ~~any~~ <sup>any</sup> ~~secret~~ <sup>secret</sup> political association ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> society whose members are bound ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> within the state shall be by an oath affirmation or pledge ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> constitute a misdemeanor of any sort ~~etc~~
- 3 - That no further debt shall be contracted ~~except for necessary~~ <sup>until all the creditors of the state shall have received payment in full of</sup> ~~covered~~ until all the creditors of the state shall have received the amount paid by the first buyer for the bonds of the State - with interest thereon -

4 - That the state shall sell to the highest bidder after proper advertisement all her stock and interest in all public works and the sums so received shall first be used for the payment of the bonds issued for said stock,

The Republican party is unalterably opposed: -

- 1 - To any modification or limitation of the elective franchise, beyond what is contained in the present constitution,
- 2 - To any change whereby the Homestead and personal property exemptions may be either directly or indirectly endangered
- 3 - To any property qualification for voters, jurors or office holders
- 4 - To any extension or enlargement of the power to of the general assembly to levy taxes upon the poll

5 - <sup>4</sup> to any decrease of the proportion  
of revenue or of the fund set  
apart for the support of common  
schools —



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1875

Republican  
Party

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